

## Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAB-01 ACDA-05 /060 W

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R 200650Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9886

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 0410

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, IR, IZ

SUBJ: IRAQ'S ATTEMPTS TO STIR UP TROUBLE IN THE PERSAIN

GULF

REF : JIDDA 0286

1. AMBASSADOR TOLD PRINCE SULTAN JAN 18 THAT MOHAMMED MAS'UD, ACTING MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HAD REFERRED TO VARIOUS REPORTS OF IRAN'S DESIGNS IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES OF THE GULF AND HAD ASKED OUR VIEWS (REFTEL). THE AMBASSADOR TOLD SHAIKH MOHAMMED THAT HE THOUGHT ALL THE REPORTS WERE WRONG BUT HE WOULD CHECK. HE HAD DONE THIS AND THE ACCUSATIONS WERE INDEED WITHOUT FOUNDATION.

2. SULTAN SAID THAT HE WAS SURE THIS WOULD BE THE CASE.

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THE ENTIRE ANTI-IRAN CAMPAIGN, HE SAID, ORIGINATED WITH

IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER HAMOUDA WHO, ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA, MADE GREAT EFFORTS TO SPREAD GENERAL AND SPECIFIC ANTI-IRANIAN TALES. HE SAID THIS WAS A TRANSPARENT EFFORT TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR IRAQ IN ITS DIFFICULTIES WITH IRAN.

3. SULTAN SAID HAMOUDA EVEN TRIED TO GET SAUDI ARABIA TO JOIN IRAQ IN A MILITARY PACT AGAINST IRAN. THE SAUDIS TOLD HIM IT WOULD BE NONSENSE TO TRY TO POLARIZE THE REGION; THAT IT WOULD BE FAR BETTER FOR IRAQ TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH IRAN ON ITS VARIOUS PROBLEMS. SULTAN COMMENTED THAT REASON AT LAST SEEMED TO BE PREVAILING; AT LEAST THE IRANIAN AND THE IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTERS WERE TALKING IN ISTANBUL. SULTAN THOUGHT THERE COULD BE A ROLE FOR SAUDI ARABIA AS MEDIATOR.

4. SULTAN SAID THAT WHEN THE SAG DISCOVERED HAMOUDA'S TACTICS IT DECIDED TO FRUSTRATE HIM BY SENDING A SPECIAL EMISSARY TO VISIT THE GULF STATES: BAHRAIN, ABU DHABI AND QATAR. IN EACH CASE THE SAUDI EMISSARY ARRIVED SHORTLY BEFORE THE IRAQI GUEST, WAS ABLE TO BRIEF THE GULF LEADERS FULLY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER.

5. SULTAN MENTIONED AS AN EXAMPLE OF HAMOUDA'S PERNICIOUS EFFORTS HIS CONTENTION THAT IRAN'S PRESENCE IN OMAN WAS, IN A SENSE, A GOOD THING FOR THE ARABS BECAUSE IT WOULD BLEED IRAN WHITE, AS AMERICA WAS BLED IN VIET-NAM. SULTAN SAID THAT THIS ACCUSATION MADE LITTLE SENSE, EVEN MATHEMATICALLY: THE SHAH'S EFFORTS IN OMAN CONCERNED ONLY A TINY FRACTION OF HIS TOTAL FORCES.

6. SULTAN ADDED FOR THE AMBASSADOR'S INFORMATION ONLY, THAT THE SAUDIS WERE IN FACT INCREASINGLY DISTURBED BY THE IRANIAN ARMS BUILD-UP. AND WHILE THEY DID NOT INTEND TO FALL INTO ANY TRAP SET FOR THEM BY THE IRAQIS, THE SUSPICION WAS GROWING IN THE KINGDOM THAT IRAN REALLY DID HAVE AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS ON THE ARAB SIDE OF THE GULF. FAHD HAD EARLIER EXPRESSED THE SAME APPREHENSIONS, (REFTEL).

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, SA, IR, IZ  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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